

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

EXCLUSIVE

TOP SECRET 254136Z AUG 71 SENSITIVE EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY
VIA BUNKER CHANNELS

FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER

TO : AMBASSADOR ELLSWORTH BUNKER

CITE: WHS0293

1971 AUG 25 02

AUGUST 25, 1971

WE WERE DELIGHTED WITH YOUR MESSAGE INDICATING THAT PRESIDENT THIEU IS LEANING TOWARDS REFERENDUM. IF HE FINALLY OPTS FOR THIS ROUTE, A GREAT DEAL WILL DEPEND UPON HIS GENEROSITY IN INSURING OPPOSITION HAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO CAMPAIGN AND OPERATE FREELY IN EXPRESSING ITS VIEWPOINTS.

THE PRESIDENT HAS HAD ADDITIONAL THOUGHT WHICH HE CONSIDERS WORTH SERIOUS CONSIDERATION AND HAVING MERIT ESPECIALLY HERE AND PERHAPS IN PARIS AS WELL. HE SUGGESTS THAT PRESIDENT THIEU MIGHT, ALONG WITH REFERENDUM ANNOUNCEMENT, PROMISE A NEW ELECTION WITHIN NINE MONTHS OF PEACE SETTLEMENT. SUCH A PROPOSAL WOULD TEND TO PUT FOCUS HERE ON THE DIFFICULTY OF ELECTION PROCESS IN TIME OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY AND OFFER PSYCHOLOGICAL INCENTIVE TO THE OTHER SIDE AS THEY CONTEMPLATE PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE.

WARM REGARDS.

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

EXCLUSIVE

EYES ONLY

WHITE HOUSE
SITUATION ROOM

71 AUG 25 PM 10:09

difficulty of election process

psychological incentive to the other side as they contemplate prospects for the future.

Warm regards.

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

HAK:AMH:RTK:feg:8/25/71

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